Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1 - 39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently amended) A method for converting a large capacity cloning vector into a herpes simplex virus (HSV)-based amplicon, said method comprising recombining:

(a) a large capacity cloning vector comprising a genomic DNA insert; and

(b) an amplicon vector comprising a herpesvirus cleavage/packaging sequence and a herpesvirus origin of replication;

thereby producing an HSV-based amplicon vector comprising said genomic DNA insert; wherein said large capacity cloning vector is a bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC), P1 phage-based vector (PAC), cosmid, yeast artificial chromosome (YAC), or viral based vector.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said herpesvirus cleavage/packaging sequence is an HSV-1 cleavage/packaging sequence.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said herpesvirus origin of replication is an HSV-1 origin of replication.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said herpesvirus cleavage/packaging sequence is an HSV-1 cleavage/packaging sequence, and said herpesvirus origin of replication is an HSV-1 origin of replication.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said amplicon vector of (b) further comprises a genetic element from Epstein-Barr virus (EBV).

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein said genetic element from EBV is *oriP*.

46. (Canceled)

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said large capacity cloning vector is a bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC).

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said large capacity cloning vector is a P1 phage-based vector (PAC).

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said recombining comprises site-specific recombination of (a) and (b) in the presence of a site-specific recombinase.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein said site-specific recombinase is selected from the group consisting of: P1 bacteriophage CRE, yeast FLP, and yeast R recombinase.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein said site-specific recombinase is P1 bacteriophage CRE.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said recombining comprises homologous recombination of (a) and (b).

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said recombining comprises ligation of (a) and (b).

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said genomic DNA insert is 50 to 100 kb in size.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said genomic DNA insert is 110 to 150 kb in size.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, further comprising packaging said HSV-based amplicon vector comprising said genomic DNA insert into an infectious particle.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 56, wherein said packaging is accomplished using a helper virus-free system.